

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 MMS-01 IO-10 /065 W

----- 117289

O R 010245Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9806

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3069

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF FATHER SINNOTT

1. MARYKNOLL PRIEST JAMES SINNOTT LEFT KIMPO AIRPORT AT 1900 ON APRIL 30 BY KE 002. BEFORE DEPARTING, HE STAGED BRIEF DEMONSTRATION AT AIRPORT DONNING BLACK HOOD. FATHER SINNOTT TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE STRONGLY OBJECTED TO U.S. SUPPLYING POLICE EQUIPMENT TO ROKG FOR USE AGAINST DISSIDENTS, THAT HE WOULD TESTIFY ON MAY 20 BEFORE FRASER COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA, THAT HE HAD ACTED AS HE DID BECAUSE AS PRIEST AND MISSIONARY HE HAD TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST EVIL; THAT HE PRAYED FOR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION IN KOREA; THAT HE HOPED SOME DAY TO COME BACK AND RESUME HIS WORK OF 15 YEARS AS MISSIONARY IN KOREA.

2. DURING AFTERNOON OF APRIL 30 GROUP OF MARYKNOLL PRIESTS TRIED TO APPEAL TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE FOR REVERSAL OF DEPARTURE ORDER. AT SAME TIME COLLEAGUES WERE ABLE TO PERSUADE SINNOTT TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY SAME EVENING IF MINISTRY GAVE REASONS FOR DEPARTURE ORDER.

3. REASONS WERE GIVEN TO SINNOTT IN WRITING BY
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MINISTRY. MINISTRY CHARGED (1) THAT IN 1972 HE HAD

BEEN FINED FOR LATE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RESIDENCE PERMIT; (2) THAT HE HAD BEEN WARNED THREE TIMES BY INCHON IMMIGRATION OFFICE FOR ENGAGING IN POLITICAL RATHER THAN RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES; AND (3) THAT HE HAD MALIGNED KOREA AND SLANDERED JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT.

4. ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE DEPARTURE SINNOTT AGREED TO ACCOMPANY IMMIGRATION AGENTS TO THE AIRPORT WHILE MARYKNOLL ORDER PROVIDED TICKET. SOME THIRTY FELLOW PRIESTS, FIRENDS, AND NEWSMEN ALSO WENT TO THE AIRPORT TO SEE HIM OFF. US CONSULAR OFFICER WAS PRESENT AT DEPARTURE. AT LAST MOMENT HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY BISHOP OF TOKYO TO BRIEFLY STOP OFF IN JAPAN.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Subject: DEPARTURE OF FATHER SINNOTT
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To: STATE
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